

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

MEETING OF JANUARY 17, 1934

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 P.M. at The New York Botanical Garden by President Hazen. There were 30 members present. The minutes of the meetings of December 20th and January 2nd were read and approved.

The following were unanimously elected to membership in the club: Dr. P. R. Berkholder, Schermerhorn Hall, Columbia University, New York; James W. Marvin, Schermerhorn Hall, Columbia University, New York; and Homer M. Northrup, 210 East Union Avenue, Bound Brook, N. J.

The resignations of Katie C. Kirkpatrick and Lorenz F. Logan were accepted with regret.

Professor M. A. Chrysler was elected Editor of the Club.

Dr. Edmund W. Sinnott of Columbia University gave an interesting talk on "Nuclear Size and Cell Size in the Polyploid Series of *Datura Stramonium*." This was illustrated by lantern slides.

FORMAN T. McLEAN  
Secretary

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 6, 1934

The meeting was called to order at the American Museum of Natural History at 8:15 P.M. by President Hazen. There were 60 members present.

The following were unanimously elected to membership in the club: Alma L. Ericson, 2181 Ryer Avenue, New York; Mr. Joseph Ewan, 3000 Life Science Building, University of California, Berkeley, Cal., Alan L. Martin, 434 West 120th Street, New York; Walter E. Rogers, Lawrence College, Appleton, Wis., Dr. John W. Shive, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, New Brunswick, N. J.

The resignations of Mrs. Gladys Gordon Fry, Mrs. Kenneth Goode and Mrs. Walter Rautenstrauch were accepted with regret.

Dr. Elmer D. Merrill, Director of The New York Botanical

Garden gave an interesting talk on the "Botanical Pioneers of the Orient." This talk was illustrated by lantern slides.

FORMAN T. McLEAN  
Secretary

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 21, 1934

Meeting was called to order at 3:30 P.M. at The New York Botanical Garden by President Hazen. There were 31 members present. Minutes of meetings of January 17th and February 6th and Council meeting of January 17th were read and approved.

The following were unanimously elected to membership in the club: Miss Jean Berger, 102 Manor Road, Staten Island, N.Y.; W. G. Camp, Columbia University, New York; Miss Natalie Hettger, 214 Division Avenue, Hasbrouck Heights, N.J.; Mr. Henry Jacoby, 3400 Wayne Avenue, New York; Miss Mabel E. Newman, 3016 Bronx Park East, New York.

The resignations of Miss Anna Hecht, Mr. L. H. Laphorn, Mrs. C. G. Stehle and Mr. Norwood C. Thornton were accepted with regret.

Realizing that the present world-wide financial depression has in certain instances caused such distress that some of the staunch supporters of the Torrey Botanical Club now feel temporarily unable to meet their club dues, and believing that the acceptance of resignations from such members under these circumstances would be very regrettable, be it therefore resolved:

That members of the Torrey Botanical Club who have been in good standing for a period of fifteen years or longer up to 1932 may be continued on our rolls as lapsed members, to receive the weekly Bulletins of the New York Academy of Science, but not the other publications of the club, for such period in the future as circumstances may warrant. The Treasurer shall notify each such member of this action by the club when the matter of standing in the club comes into question, and ask such members if they wish to be retained on the rolls as lapsed members for the duration of the present period of stress.

Dr. P. W. Zimmerman of the Boyce Thompson Institute gave an interesting illustrated talk on "How Mercury Com-

pounds Applied to Soil Contaminate the Air and Injure Plants” and “Effect of Chlorinated Water on Land Plants, Aquatic Plants and Gold Fish.”

FORMAN T. MCLEAN  
Secretary

MEETING OF MARCH 6, 1934

Meeting was called to order at 8:15 P.M. by President Hazen. Seventy-one people were present.

Announcement was made of the death of Mrs. Elizabeth G. Britton who joined the Torrey Botanical Club in 1879 and was the first to become a life member of the club.

Dr. Howe moved that a committee be appointed by the President to prepare suitable resolution by the Club and Dr. Howe and Dr. Harper were appointed as such a committee with authority to select a third member if they see fit.

Dr. Chester W. Emmons of the College of Physicians and Surgeons gave an instructive illustrated talk on “Plants that Cause Human Diseases” which proved to be of particular interest to a large number of medical people attending. Dr. Emmons stated that many of these fungus diseases attacking humans can subsist on dead organic matter outside of a body also and probably most of them are only incidentally parasitic on man.

FORMAN T. MCLEAN  
Secretary

MEETING OF MARCH 21, 1934

The meeting was called to order by President Hazen at 3:30 P.M. at The New York Botanical Garden with 24 members present. The minutes of the meetings of February 21st and of March 6th were read and approved.

Dr. H. J. Lam, Director of Rijks Herbarium, Nanensteg, Leiden, Holland was unanimously elected to membership in the club.

The resignations of J. W. C. Goethart and Mr. Morton E. Peck were accepted with regret.

The following resolution was read by Dr. M. A. Howe and was accepted by a unanimous vote.

## ELIZABETH GERTRUDE BRITTON

The Torrey Botanical Club notes, with great regret, the passing of Elizabeth Gertrude Britton (Mrs. Nathaniel Lord Britton) on February 25, 1934. Mrs. Britton, then Elizabeth Gertrude Knight, was elected to membership in the Club on December 9, 1879, and was thus a member for more than fifty-four years—a longer term of continuous active membership than was ever enjoyed by any other person with the exception of her distinguished husband. She became a life member in 1930. For ten years after her graduation from the Normal College of New York (later Hunter College) she was a teacher in that institution. For three years, 1886–1888, she was the editor of the *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club*.

Mrs. Britton was one of the group of members of the Torrey Botanical Club who were most active in promoting the idea of establishing a botanical garden in the City of New York. In fact, the first suggestion of such a garden has been traced to a remark that she made to Professor Britton during a visit to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew in the summer of 1888.

Mrs. Britton was for many years the leading authority on the mosses of North America and did much in popularizing their study and in developing and inspiring specialists in the taxonomy of this group of plants. She was the first and only woman elected to membership in the original Botanical Society of America, at a time when membership was limited to those who had distinguished themselves in research. In 1902, she was a prime-mover in organizing The Wild Flower Preservation Society of America and was for many years its executive secretary and treasurer. By her writings and lectures and by extensive correspondence, she aroused and developed sentiment in favor of protecting attractive plants that were in danger of extermination, especially in the vicinity of the larger cities. Her efforts resulted directly or indirectly in the passing of laws for the protection of our native flora in various states, in the establishment of branch societies for wild-flower preservation, and in the development of conservation activities in thousands of schools and garden clubs.

*Resolved*, That the members of the Torrey Botanical Club hereby record their profound sorrow over the loss of their long-time associate, Elizabeth Gertrude Britton, and hereby express their admiration of the very unusual intellectual endowments that enabled her to make such important contributions to American bryology and to play such an influential part in developing sentiment favorable to the conservation of our native flora.

*Resolved*, That the foregoing preamble and resolution be entered upon the minutes of the Club and that copies thereof be transmitted to Doctor Britton and to other members of her family, with warmest sympathy.

MARSHALL A. HOWE  
ROBERT A. HARPER  
MARGARET A. GRAHAM  
Committee

Dr. Howe as Chairman of the Committee on Amendments to the Constitution read the report of the Committee on the recommended changes:

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE  
TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB AS PUBLISHED IN *TORREYA* FOR  
MARCH-APRIL, 1933 (33: 42-46):

It is moved to amend Article X—Council

- (a) By changing, in paragraph 1, line 1, *sixteen* to *nineteen*;
  - (b) By adding, in line 2, after *President* the words *the retiring President, the two Vice-Presidents*;
  - (c) By changing, in line 7, *Five* to *Seven*;
- and (d) By adding, in paragraph 2, line 4, after meetings, the words *and it may appoint committees to facilitate the conduct of its business.*

It is moved to amend Article XI—Members

By adding, in line 1, after *sustaining*, the word *life*.

It is moved to amend Article XIII—Annual Dues

- (a) By omitting the word *Annual* in its title;
- (b) By adding a third paragraph to read as follows:  
Payment of one hundred dollars at one time shall entitle one to become a life-member without further payment of dues. After payment of annual dues for forty years, a member shall be eligible to election to life-membership and, in special cases, members for shorter periods may likewise be elected to life-membership.

After considerable discussion the Secretary was instructed to send out a special notice according to Section 21 of the Constitution.

Dr. R. P. Wodehouse, Vice-President of the club, gave a very interesting illustrated talk on "Evolution of Pollen Grains".

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 P.M.

S. M. PADY  
Acting Secretary

MEETING OF APRIL 3, 1934

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Karling at 8:15 P.M. at Columbia University with thirty-nine members present.

Mr. Jonathan Gordon, 377 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn,

New York and Professor F. McAllister, Dept. of Botany, University of Texas, Austin, Texas were unanimously elected to membership in the Club.

Professor John S. Karling of Columbia University gave a very interesting talk on "Tapping *Achras zapota* for Chicle in Tropical America."

FORMAN T. MCLEAN  
Secretary

### NEWS NOTES

Special price on Torrey Club publications. The following volumes of the Memoirs of the Club will be sold at the prices given as long as the supply lasts:

- Vol. 5. List of Pteridophyta and Spermatophyta growing without cultivation in Northeastern North America. Pages 1-377. 1893-1894. List price \$3.00, reduced to 50 cents.
- Vol. 10. Burgess, Edward Sanford. History of Pre-Clusian botany in its relation to Aster. Pages i-xii, 1-447. 1902. List price \$3.00, reduced to 50 cents.
- Vol. 13. Burgess, Edward Sanford. Species and varieties of Biotian Asters, with discussion of variability in Aster. Pages i-xv, 1-419, plates 1-13. 1906. List price \$3.00, reduced to 50 cents.
- Vol. 6. No. 3. Hazen, Tracy Elliot. The life history of *Sphaerella lacustris* (*Haematococcus pluvialis*). Pages 211-246, plates 86-87, colored. 1899. List price 50 cents, reduced to 25 cents.
- Vol. 11. No. 2. Hazen, Tracy Elliot. The Ulothricaceae and Chaetophoraceae of the United States. Pages 135-250, plates 20-42. 1902. List price \$1.75, reduced to 50 cents.

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden reports that a box of Iris flower stems with buds was given to a visitor on June 1 and carried to London where they were blooming freely ten days later.

The flowers were miscellaneous varieties of the Bearded Iris.

The Botanic Garden also reports the opening on May 9th of a Local Flora Section of about three acres. This area is planted on an ecological basis.